

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5627
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2001
ASSISTANCE FOR BOOK PUBLISHING INDUSTRY
VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any new policy proposed to be formulated for promotion of reading habit and strengthening of book publishing industry;
- (b) if so, the quantum of assistance being given to Voluntary organisations engaged in the promotion of reading habit and book publishing; and
- (c) the extent to which the National Book Trust is able to face the challenge of IT related facilities?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) The Government has set up a Committee on Promotion of Reading Habits and Development of Book Publishing Industry under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Secondary & Higher Education. The National Book Trust, India (NBT), an autonomous organisation of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, has been designated by the Committee as the nodal agency to prepare a draft document on the policy and programmes covering all aspects of book publishing after wide ranging consultations.

(b) The Ministry has a scheme for providing financial assistance to voluntary organisations engaged in book promotional activities. The outlay for the scheme for the year 2001-02 is Rs. 50 lakh. The NBT also provides assistance to voluntary organisations engaged in book publishing activities.

(c) NBT is harnessing developments in information technology for modernizing the book industry by getting into electronic publishing and converting its books into CD-ROMs. The Trust also has its own website for its publications and book purchase orders are accepted through E-Mail.